Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 22977 030818Z

17
ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 DODE-00 AID-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 SCS-03 SCA-01 SS-15

NSC-05 /073 W
---------- 106098
P R 030729Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3599
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA
CINCPAC HONO
JCRC SAMAE SAN THAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 22977

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC UNHCR VS VN
SUBJECT: DEBRIEFING OF RETURNEES: STATEMENTS SIGNED

REF: STATE 256616

SUMMARY. THREE TIMES DURING THEIR IMPRISONMENT THE FOURTEEN PERSONS WHO DEPARTED HANOI OCTOBER 30 WERE ASKED TO SIGN STATEMENTS REQUESTING TO BE RELEASED. WITH VARIATIONS IN THE TEXT THEY COMPLIED. END SUMMARY.

1. ALTHOUGH THERE MAY HAVE BEEN EXCEPTIONS, IT APPEARS THAT, AS A RULE, COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES IN NORTH AND SOUTH VIET-NAM REQUESTED THE FOURTEEN PRISONERS TO SIGN STATEMENTS ASKING THAT THEY BE RELEASED ON THREE DIFFERENT OCCASIONS DURING THEIR IMPRISONMENT. THERE SEEMS TO BE HAVE BEEN INDIVIDUAL BARGAINING OVER WHAT EACH PERSON'S STATEMENT SAID. THE NON-AMERICANS WERE ALWAYS ASKED TO SIGN THEIR STATEMENTS FIRST.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 22977 030818Z

STATEMENTS WERE ALL IN ENGLISH, TRANSLATED AFTERWARDS

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

INTO VIETNAMESE (THE MILLERS WERE TOLD THAT HUYNH TAN PHAT,
WHO THEORETICALLY WAS TO RECEIVE THE DECLARATIONS, SPEAKS
EXCELLENT ENGLISH).

2. EVERYONE HAD TO SUBMIT HIS FIRST STATEMENT DURING THE
EARLY INCARCERATION AT YA SUP CAMP IN DARLAC. IT WAS
MERELY A REQUEST TO THE PRG FOR RELEASE SO THE PRISONERS
COULD REJOIN THEIR FAMILIES. IN IT, THE PERSON OR FAMILY
SIGNING ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE OR THEY WERE TREATED WELL
AND IN REASONABLY GOOD HEALTH.

3. MOST -- PERHAPS ALL -- PRISONERS BOTH SIGNED AND TAPED
A SECOND STATEMENT AT SON TAY, ADDRESSING IT DIRECTLY TO
PHAT. IT INCLUDED WELL WISHES ON THE DRV'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY,
PLEASURE THAT VIET-NAM WAS REUNITED, AND MENTIONED THE GOOD
TREATMENT RECEIVED. THE MILLERS WERE ASKED TO SIGN FIRST
AMONG THE AMERICANS BECAUSE, THEY SUSPECT, OF CONCERN OVER
DAUGHTER LUANNE'S HEALTH. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES
ASKED THEM TO INCLUDE A STATEMENT OF APPRECIATION FOR A
BIRTHDAY PARTY THE FORMER GAVE LUANNE IN SEPTEMBER. THE
MILLERS' STATEMENT WAS REJECTED BY "THE SECRETARY" OF THE
PRG EMBASSY IN HANOI, WHO SAID THE TONE WAS A COMPLAINING
ONE. THE MILLERS MADE VERY MINOR CHANGES, AND IT WAS
ACCEPTED. STRUHARIK SIGNED HIS WHILE IN SOLITARY CONFIN-
MENT IN OCTOBER. THE ONE GIVEN HIM TO SIGN STATED
THAT HE WOULD SAY NOTHING CRITICAL ABOUT HIS INCARCERATION
AND WOULD TRY TO PERSAUDE OTHERS TO DO LIKEWISE.

4. JUST PRIOR TO RELEASE, EVERYONE SIGNED AND TAPED
A THIRD STATEMENT AT SON TAY, ADDRESSED AGAIN TO PHAT OR, IN
SOME CASES, TO CAMP AUTHORITIES. IN IT THE PRISONERS
REQUESTED THEIR RELEASE, STATED THAT TREATMENT WAS GOOD,
AND DECLARED THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THE KINDNESS AND
CONSIDERATION SHOWN THEM BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND THE
PLAF. AT LEAST STRUHARIK'S INCLUDED A SENTENCE THAT
HE REALIZED THAT HIS ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING AMERICAN
FOREILN POLICY WERE WRONG.

5. THE VARIOUS RETURNEES WE QUESTIONED ABOUT THESE STATE-
MENTS SAID THEY HAVE NO IDEA HOW THE COMMUNISTS INTEND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 22977 030818Z

TO USE THEM BUT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF THEY ARE BROAD-
CAST AT SOME POINT.
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONERS RELEASE, POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO22977
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750380-0809
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751182/aaaacvfm.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DPW
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 256616
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEBRIEFING OF RETURNEES: STATEMENTS SIGNED
TAGS: CASC, PFOR, VS, VN, UNHCR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006